

# ADC Post

Dora B. Schriro - DIRECTOR

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER - 2003

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### ADC Announces New NROD and Wardens

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NROD Bennie Rollins

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Meg, a bloodhound at Phoenix's Aspen Unit, was nominated for a community service award with Friends of Animal Control, a charity that assists Arizona animal control, for being a therapeutic outlet for inmates

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Camera crew filming meg

## New Director Assumes Leadership

### A leading mind on corrections management

On Tuesday, July 1, Dr. Dora Schriro took charge as the seventh Arizona Department of Correction's Director and the first woman to lead the Department.

In selecting Director Schriro for the top leadership post, Governor Janet Napolitano described Dr. Schriro as one of America's leading minds on modern, effective prison management. "Dora's vision for a modern prison system is matched by her energy to implement that vision, and I am proud to have her on board," said Napolitano.

Dr. Schriro has more than 30 years of corrections experience. Up until her appointment in Arizona, Dr. Schriro served as the Commissioner of the St. Louis (Missouri) City Division of Corrections for two years where she oversaw the opening of the city's new justice center and the transfer of the prisoner processing unit from the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department to the city's Department of Public Safety. From 1993 to 2001, Dr. Schriro served as the Director of the Missouri Department of Corrections (MoDOC). During her tenure as Director, her peers selected Dr. Schriro as the 1999 recipient of the Association of State Correctional Administrator's Michael Franke Award for being the nation's top correctional administrator. The Kennedy School of Government and the Ford Foundation also recognized her work in four consecutive years for innovative programming. Her

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Director Dora B. Schriro

## Special Session Provides Optimism

Vowing her commitment to address correctional issues facing the Arizona Department of Corrections, Governor Janet Napolitano held a news conference with Director Dora Schriro to discuss the Governor's call for a Special Legislative Session beginning October 20. During this Special Session, Director Dora Schriro and staff will be seeking legislative support for a plan to ensure there are sufficient monies to continue to operate the department throughout Fiscal Year 2004. Further, the plan will increase ADC's capacity over the next five years to confine felons and develop intermediate sanctions to decrease the rate of future growth during the next five years.

According to Director Schriro, the Special Session will alleviate prison overcrowding and sustain staff recruitment and retention efforts. "With the help of the Legislature we will have the resources necessary to tackle prison overcrowding and understaffing that are impacting our correctional institutions. In the weeks to come, ADC will present a compelling case for

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Governor Napolitano flanked by Director Schriro and ADC staff address the media with her plan to increase funding for the department

# From Her Desk



**Dora B. Schriro**

July marked the beginning of a new fiscal year, and like any other new year, it is a special opportunity to affirm long-standing commitments and strive for new heights. During July, my first month of service in the Arizona Department of Corrections, I had the great pleasure to walk the yards and corridors of the agency's ten prison complexes, and learn from our

conversations a lot about the organization and your aspirations for our system. I'd like to describe for you what I've observed thus far. This state is fortunate! Each and every unit and work group is nothing short of exceptional cadres of corrections professionals. The sources of your strength come from many places. First, COTA provides comprehensive training to newly hired and tenured staff, and its curriculum is made stronger still by ADC's affiliation with Arizona POST. Second, the department's policies reflect many of the field's best security practices, and your mastery of that material is self evident in your outstanding performance of your duties. Third, your capacity to work together as teams mitigates as much of the danger as can be overcome in facilities that are overcrowded and understaffed. And fourth, perhaps most noteworthy of all, everyone with whom I have spoken is interested in doing more to reduce recidivism and to improve the lives of victims by partnering with the victims' community. Your collective commitment to continuous improvement of the ways in which we carry out our mission is by far this department's greatest asset. Striving for excellence – *ad excellem conamur* – is what ADC does best. Also, this fall, I will be visiting our field offices to meet

our colleagues in Community Corrections and make a second sweep of our prison complexes, more in-depth than the first. Whenever possible, I will schedule these visits on different days and shifts in order to meet more of you.

In August, I also asked a small group of ADC administrators to convene at COTA for a first preliminary planning session, narrow in focus and quite specific to our operation for the remainder of the 2004 Fiscal Year. During this initial statewide conversation we concentrated on three critical issues immediately facing ADC – first, ensuring there is sufficient capacity for sanctions, supervision and services through June 2004; second, adopting those strategies that most effectively recruit and retain correctional officers and other essential staff; and third, identifying all of the resources readily at hand to engage a greater percentage of the inmate population in work, school, and treatment, and in so doing, meet two pressing needs that impact your safety and that of the public: Further reducing idleness in the institutions to offset its impact on overcrowding and launching our state's re-entry initiative. Many of you have expressed interest in participating in this process and by fall, a system should be in place to tap your talent through innovative, strategic planning. Almost immediately thereafter, we will come together to develop a roadmap for the next three to five years.

No doubt any number of challenges – and opportunities – await us. I am confident that in each and every situation that may unfold, we have all of the essential ingredients that we need to succeed within the four corners of our operation – a community of dedicated leaders that comes from each rank and every work location in our organization, willing and able to husband scarce resources, focusing on outcomes that improve public safety, and working together distinguished by the continuous press for excellence. I prize your continuing commitment to public service. The contributions that you and your families selflessly make manifest statewide in communities that are safer places in which to live, work and recreate daily. I am very proud to serve with you and I will strive to serve you well.

## New Director Assumes Leadership Continued from Page 1

*Constituent Services* program cut inmate litigation by 70 percent during a period of time when the agency's population doubled. Parallel Universe, the department's re-entry initiative promoting lawful and productive conduct cut recidivism by one-third, saving the state thousands of beds. A description of this re-entry initiative has been published by the U.S. Department of Justice. Her university-based program, Pre-Promotional Training, fast-tracked line staff into supervisory and managerial positions. In addition, the Council of State and Local Government identified the Missouri Department of Correction's Waste Tire Recycling Program, as a national winner. Before joining the state system in 1993 as Director, Dr. Schriro served for four years as the Correctional Superintendent for the City of St. Louis. There she partnered with Joseph Califano and brought an array of substance abuse services to the city system.

From 1984 to 1989, Director Schriro worked as the Assistant Commissioner in the New York City Department of Corrections (NYCDOC). Here she was instrumental in passing legislation requiring the city's Board of Education to provide high school instruction to youthful offenders culminating in the opening of three high schools on Riker's Island. Early on in her career, Director Schriro was also instrumental in working on alternative sentencing activities in the

Office of the Mayor for New York City under Mayor Ed Koch.

Director Schriro began her corrections career in 1974 in Massachusetts where she coordinated one of the state's first pre-release programs. Asked why she chose this kind of work, Director Schriro explained, "In my senior year of high school, I attended a 45-minute criminology lecture. I knew right then that this is the field that I wanted to enter. I feel really fortunate that I figured it out so early. I can't imagine any other kind of work that can positively impact so many people – the public, the victims' community, our many colleagues in Corrections and the offender population."

Throughout her career, Director Schriro has been involved in a number of sentencing activities. She served for six years as Vice Chair of Missouri's Sentencing Commission. Also, Dr. Schriro is a founding member of the Vera Institute of Justice's State and Local Sentencing Program where she continues to serve as an Associate. She has co-led sentencing seminars for state court judges at St. Louis University's Law School and was also quite active in the state's crafting of its truth-in-sentencing statutes, sex offender and civil commitment legislation, diversion provisions for first-time and non-violent felons, and mandatory programs directives.



An official publication of the  
Arizona Department of Corrections

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Printed by  
Arizona Correctional Industries

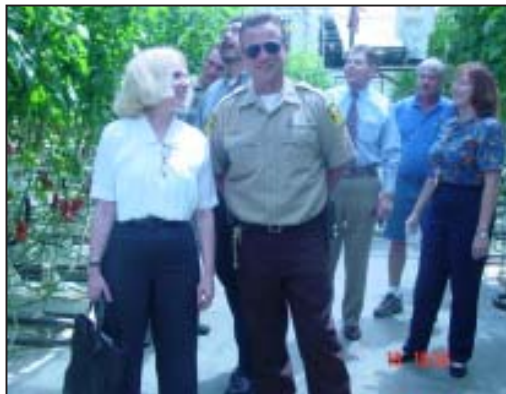
Dr. Schriro is very involved in the victims' community. She participated in the passage of the country's first legislation establishing Restorative Justice services, and she established three victim units in MoDOC – the Offices of Victims Services and Restorative Justice for the community and a Workplace Violence Resource Center for staff. In addition, Director Schriro served as vice-president of the Board, Aid for Victims of Crime, the nation's oldest victims' advocacy organization.

Director Schriro earned a juris doctorate from St. Louis University just last summer. She holds a doctorate from Columbia University, a master's degree from the University of Massachusetts-Boston, and a bachelor of arts cum laude from Northeastern University. She has taught in law, criminal justice, psychology and education programs since 1978. Besides her extensive career in "jailin," she is also passionate about gardening, cooking (especially Italian dishes), and modern and classical dance.

# Director tours ADC complexes

During her first weeks as Director of the Arizona Department of Corrections, Dora Schriro toured all of the Department's prisons and met with employees. Director Schriro also invited legislators to tour with her to see firsthand the impact of overcrowding.

From her tours, the Director was extremely impressed with the level of professionalism and training exhibited by each employee, and she is excited to work with each and every staff member of this Department. According to Director Schriro, the security operations in Arizona prisons are second to none.



## Special Session Continued from Page 1

legislative support to assist the Department of Corrections," said Ms. Schriro.

Invited to attend the press conference was a group of ADC professionals representing a variety of positions. Captain Steve Miller of ASPC-Yuma was impressed with the Governor's conviction to pursue additional funding for ADC. Captain Miller agreed with the Governor's plan to use existing prisons to increase bed space rather than build costly new prisons.

### The Governor's plan includes the following features:

- Funds are requested to continue staff's hiring and retention incentives.
- 1,600 temporary beds are added now to prevent further overcrowding this year.
- Funds to contract for beds from Coconino and Navajo Counties.
- The permanent beds will all be built on state land and with inmate labor, and the units built for the female population will be gender specific realizing 10-15% savings in construction and furnishings, saving taxpayers more than \$70 million.

In addition, the Governor endorsed ADC's proposal to develop intermediate sanctions for prison bound probationers and parolees at risk of revocation for

technical violations.

About 45 percent of all admissions to ADC are probationers and parolees revoked for failure to comply with technical conditions of community supervision. Providing intermediate sanctions - for example, a shock stay in ADC with intensive pre-release preparation - should reduce their rate of failure thus cut future numbers of revocations admitted to our department.

In preparing this plan, ADC staff provided valuable information that was included in its development. There is still considerable work ahead for the Department including the development of re-entry strategies this fall to reduce the idleness that still exists and impacts prison overcrowding, and to lower the numbers of ex-offenders who commit new crimes. Processes will be developed so that more staff can participate in the planning and implementation of a variety of important public safety initiatives.

# Grant expected to save lives

By Doris Pulsifer, Grants Manager, OSPB



By the end of this calendar year, automated external defibrillators (AEDs), medical devices used to restart the heart of a person suffering from a heart attack, will be delivered to first responders in rural areas near ASPC-Douglas, Safford and Winslow.

ADC's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting grants staff assisted the four regional Emergency Medical Services Councils, the Arizona Fire District Association, the Office of Rural Health, the Arizona Intertribal Council, the University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association and State Health Services Bureau of Emergency Medical Services in writing the grant proposal to the federal government to purchase the AEDs. All of these agencies have formed a partnership and will meet monthly to work on this project.

The federal government awarded a grant of \$216,328, and the partnership contributed an in-kind contribution of \$62,800 for the project.



Governor Napolitano, Director Schriro, ROD Rollins and other guests participate in a legislative tour at ASPCs Florence and Eyman to demonstrate need for more funding



# Employees in the News

## Key security appointments announced

Director Dora Schriro has announced several appointments of Arizona Department of Corrections administrators.

Director Schriro promoted Bennie Rollins to the position of Northern Region Operations Director, a position he has been serving in an acting capacity, Dorothy Vigil as the Warden of ASPC-Safford and Harlan Nelson as the Warden of ASPC-Winslow.

"Messrs Rollins, Cluff, Trujillo, and Nelson and Ms. Vigil are highly trained correctional professionals who bring tremendous knowledge and experience to these important positions," said Dr. Schriro. "Throughout their tenure with the Arizona Department of Corrections, they have demonstrated their leadership. I'm confident they will continue to serve the department well."

Mr. Rollins began his career with ADC in 1981 as a Correctional Officer at Phoenix complex's Alhambra Reception and Treatment Center. Quickly promoting through the ranks of ADC, Rollins has served as a Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Deputy Warden, Warden and Acting Northern Region Operations Director. As Northern Region Operations Director, he will oversee the operations of state prisons at Perryville, Phoenix, Eyman, Florence and Winslow.

Dorothy Vigil will assume the duties and responsibilities of Arizona Department of Corrections Warden for the first time. Ms. Vigil began her career in corrections approximately 22 years ago in 1981 as the first superintendent of the former New Dawn Juvenile Correctional Center, the first female juvenile facility for the Arizona Department of Corrections. For the last 17 years, Ms. Vigil has been a Deputy Warden with ADC.

Harlan Nelson, an ADC employee for 20 years, began his corrections career as a Correctional Officer in Iowa in 1981. In 1983, Mr. Nelson moved to Arizona and resumed his corrections career. Since 1996, he has been serving as a Deputy Warden with ADC.

The Director also elevated two current Wardens to



NROD Bennie Rollins



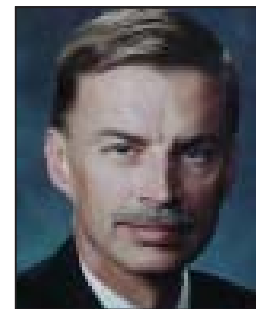
Warden Ernie Trujillo



Warden David Cluff



Warden Dorothy Vigil



Warden Harlan Nelson

larger prison complexes. David Cluff, formerly the Warden at ASPC-Winslow, is the new Warden at ASPC-Florence, and Safford Warden Ernest Trujillo has taken up new responsibilities as Warden at ASPC-Eyman. The Florence and Eyman prison complexes are two of the larger prisons in the Department of Corrections system, which contain prison units with the highest custody levels of inmates.

As Warden at ASPC-Florence, David Cluff will be returning to the site where he began his career as a

Correctional Officer in 1980. As did Mr. Rollins, Mr. Cluff has steadily progressed in his career in the department, assuming positions of increasing responsibility. He has been serving as Warden of ASPC-Winslow since 2001.

Ernest Trujillo, the new Warden at ASPC-Eyman, is a 13-year veteran of the Department who also began his career as a Correctional Officer and worked his way up the ranks. His experience as an administrator includes serving as Deputy Warden at several complexes and Warden at ASPC-Safford.

### Promotions

Judy Alberico, Lieutenant, Lewis  
Waldemar Clark, Sergeant, Yuma  
Rick Owens, Senior Parole Officer, Pinetop  
Samuel Smith, Lieutenant, Yuma  
Michelle Sundwall, COIII, Yuma  
John Barron, Sergeant,  
Harold Hollingsworth, Sergeant, Yuma  
Luis Flesher, Sergeant, Lewis  
Levi Chapman, Fiscal Services Specialist II  
Cara Callery, Accounting Tech III  
Larry Smith, Sergeant, ASP-Globe  
Joe Maldonado, BMS, ASPC-Safford  
Wayne Mooney, COIII, ASP-Apache  
Ralph Burger, Sergeant, ASPC-Safford

Stuart Pritchard, Sergeant, ASPC-Safford  
Kim Spradlin, COIII, ASPC-Safford  
Lt. D. Robinson VGD, COIII, ASPC-Safford  
David Lewis, Lieutenant, ASPC-Safford  
Lionel Gonzales, Investigator III, ASPC-Phoenix  
Rachel Saiz, Admin. Secretary III, ASPC-Phoenix  
James Nash, Sergeant, ASPC-Phoenix  
Moses Abadjivor, Sergeant, ASPC-Phoenix  
Peter Denks, COIII, ASPC-Phoenix  
Richard O'Marro III, Sergeant, ASPC-Phoenix  
Maru Mejia, Admin. Secretary I, ASPC-Phoenix  
Ivory Minix, COIII, ASPC-Phoenix  
Henry Barraza, Sergeant, ASPC-Lewis  
Jeri Pepelnjak, COIII, ASPC-Phoenix

### Retirements

Richard Busch, COII, ASPC-Tucson  
Wanda Pritchard, COIII, ASPC-Tucson  
Debra Repetto, Lieutenant, ASPC-Lewis  
Patrick Rodriguez, Sergeant, COTA  
Ricardo Sanchez, Captain, ASPC-Eyman  
Robert Wilson, Lieutenant, ASPC-Phoenix  
Blaine Marshall, DW, Florence  
Mark Berry, COIV, Winslow  
Buck Dendy, Spec. Investigator, I&I

Jimmie McClellan, ADW, Lewis  
Fidel Montoya, CO II, Winslow  
James Woodard, CO II, Florence  
Frank Valenzuela, COII, Florence  
Roberto Martinez, Sergeant, COTA  
Charles L. Ryan, Acting Director  
Donald Frye, ASPC-Safford  
Donna Wright, ASPC-Safford  
Robert L. Wilson, Lieutenant, ASPC-Phoenix  
David Fraser, Educ. Teacher, ASPC-Phoenix

## Meet the New General Counsel and Legislative Liaison



Amy Bjelland earned her Bachelor's Degree at the University of Arizona and her Juris Doctor from ASU Law. She has practiced law in various areas since obtaining her license, including immigration law, and most recently comes to the Department from the Department of Real Estate where she was Director of Administrative Actions. Amy worked for the Arizona House of Representatives Majority Research Staff as the Judiciary Committee Analyst for three sessions. She brings tremendous knowledge of legislative procedure as well as constituent experience to the Department.

# Inmate Work Crews Respond to Community Need

## Community betterment programs taking place around Arizona

Surrounded by approximately 85,000 acres of charred forest on Mount Lemmon, Arizona Department of Corrections fire crews are assisting in clearing out burned trees and reseedling the land destroyed by the devastating Aspen Fire.

Earlier this year, the Department of Corrections helped to battle the Aspen fire and prevent further outbreaks by mobilizing inmate fire crews in many parts of the State. At the suggestion of Governor Napolitano, ADC also formed its first brush removal crews who will work throughout the year to prevent fires. From the onset of the Aspen fire, three ADC Wildland Fire Crews from ASPC's Winslow, Douglas and Safford were dispatched to help combat the fire. The Winslow crew, made up of 20 inmates, worked 17 consecutive days along side the elite "hot shot" crews on the fireline (an area encircling the fire that is intended to prevent fire from spreading farther), receiving praise from several agencies for their performance.

According to ASPC-Winslow Deputy Warden Ed Fiser, fire crews periodically tackle wildland fires throughout the summer. Fiser further stated, "The fire crews also work on preventing fire risks by clearing and thinning underbrush to avert or minimize the effect of a wildland fire and develop fire lines that stop fires from spreading to residential areas. ASPC-Winslow maintains an inmate wildland fire crew year around to participate in natural resource management activities."

At the request of the Governor's Office, the Department of Corrections has assisted in the brush removal and clearing efforts in the Pine and Strawberry areas. Drought and the bark beetle infestation have decimated this locale. It is extremely vulnerable to fire. ASPC-Winslow and ASP-Globe were selected to provide inmate labor crews for this project receiving specialized training from the State Land Department on the techniques of clearing, cutting and thinning brush.



Inmate brush crews thinning out land in the Tucson area.

The brush crews are working in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, State Land Department and the Arizona Department of Transportation in brush removal and clearing and thinning trees in the highest fire threat areas. Plans are being developed for the Department of Corrections to assist in mitigating the fire danger statewide by having each complex dispatch brush and clearing crews in their area.

The cost of fighting and preventing fires can be substantial. Through Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs), the Department can provide economic relief to areas already burdened from the cost of fighting fires.

In addition to fighting and preventing fires, ADC lends assistance whenever needed. During July, an urgent call was received at ASPC-Tucson regarding the need to fill thousands of sand bags. A crew of 29 inmates and three Correctional Officers were

immediately mobilized and within two hours had stacked approximately 12 pallets of sandbags. Working steadily on this project for four days, the labor crew successfully filled 17,000 sandbags -- taking less than half the time estimated by the U.S. Forest Service.

Also, during July at the request of the County Public Works Department, ASPC-Tucson resumed filling sandbags. After only two days the work crews from the Santa Rita and SACRC units filled about 15,000 sandbags for approximately 32,000 sandbags being completed by the complex.

ASPC-Tucson Warden Charles Flanagan was contacted by the forest service to outfit and train a clearing crew to thin the forest, which will be within the auspices of the current IGA. ADC will continue to support the County public works people, as

they are the primary task force responsible for clean up, replanting and emergency flood preparation. They work with the forest service as part of the Incident Command.

Using inmate fire and brush crews illustrates the power of partnerships among all levels of government to maintain public safety and preserve the State's most treasured natural resources. The program supports the Department's goal of teaching inmates valuable work skills.

## ASPC-Tucson Raises the Roof



ASPC-Tucson employees lending a hand

As a community-wide effort in remembrance of the anniversary of September 11, Habitat for Humanity Tucson and community partners including ASPC-Tucson launched "Building Freedom Day." Habitat for Humanity Tucson works in partnership with the community and families in need to build simple, decent, affordable housing.

The effort attracted more than 1,000 community members including 15 ASPC-Tucson employees and family members who gathered together to work on 11 homes. By the end of the day, the volunteers had successfully completed the exterior frameworks and raised the roofs of each home.

Also, participating in the worthwhile project were 36 inmates who assisted with clean up and construction. The inmates experience with Habitat for Humanity was put to use at the various sites helping with all the construction needs. During the opening ceremonies, the ASPC-Tucson Inmate work crews received recognition for being an intricate part of the program's success. A new addition to the Habitat for Humanity inmate labor force is the implementation of an all female inmate crew.

Warden Flanagan, who serves on the Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors, and the staff who participated were excited about their role in the project, *giving a hand up, not a hand out*. This home building project promises to be a great success and bring needed affordable housing to the citizens of Tucson.



Thousands of sandbags ready for delivery



Inmates work to fill urgent request for sandbags



# New Steps to Ensure Cadet's Success

By Jeannie Merriman, Correctional Officer Training Academy

To address the Correctional Officer vacancy rates existing throughout Arizona state prisons, the Correctional Officer Training Academy in Tucson will no longer be turning away cadets for initially failing to meet physical requirements.

Correctional Officer Training Academy Commander, John Hallahan has led the charge to revamp the philosophy and expectations of Arizona Department of Corrections cadets. The training academy has shifted from a boot camp style to more of an adult education approach.

According to Hallahan, the majority of cadets were lost in the first two weeks of the academy because they were either stressed about being at COTA, or they could not pass the physical training. Many of the cadets were not graduating because of very small deficiencies. For instance, one cadet almost did not become a Correctional Officer because she failed to meet the physical training requirement by one sit-up.

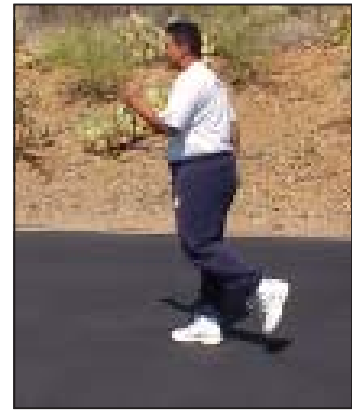
"We can't afford to let promising Correctional Officers go. Now we pull cadets aside, work with them and prepare them to meet their physical requirements," said Hallahan.

Deputy Director Richard Carlson agrees with the new philosophy, especially with the severe staffing issues facing the department. "The Department needs to ensure cadets have all the tools, encouragement and opportunity for success," said Mr. Carlson.

As one of his first changes, Hallahan re-established the Extended Physical Training Program. The EPT program allows cadets who continue to show improvements in their physical training, the opportunity to attend an additional four-week physical training program following the seven-week academy. Previously, only cadets who ranked in the thirty-fifth percentile and above were placed in the EPT program. Since the EPT program was re-established, the Department has graduated 26 EPT cadets with a 100 percent success rate.

COTA Sergeant Patricia Landers said, "Just because some cadets have a hard time meeting the physical standards, does not mean that they will not be good officers."

Since EPT was reinstated, COTA's graduation rate climbed from approximately 70 to 80 percent, and is still improving. Lieutenant Vince Neil of COTA said, "The philosophy has been a total success. It ensures that every cadet has all the tools necessary to graduate from this academy. This is apparent in the incredible success rate we have achieved in the nine short months that he has been here."



A cadet doing some road work to get in shape.



COTA Commander John Hallahan speaks to Correctional Officer cadets.

## Legislative Update



• **SB1291** (drug offender transition program) was signed into law on May 26, 2003. It mandates that ADC establish a drug offender transition program to provide services which may include assistance with employment and training placement, housing, food or treatment

services, health care, and mentoring. Funding is provided by a portion of applicable prisoner wages, a portion of the Drug Treatment and Education Fund and savings realized from releasing inmates three months early. The bill applies to drug offenders with more than six months left on their sentence to be served and does not apply to inmates who have also been convicted for certain offenses, including violent crimes, arson and sex offenses.

## ADC has a New Generation of Hounds

By COIV Dan Danser, ASPC-Florence

The Arizona Department of Corrections has a new generation of service dogs who will rely on their keen sense of smell to do their work. ADC Blood Hound Bonnie recently produced a litter of five new puppies, three males and two females that will soon join the ranks of an elite group of ADC trailing hounds dedicated to tracking inmates and missing people.

Bloodhounds have been in existence for over 2,000 years. Their unsurpassed tracking capabilities have made them a prized hunting dog and a formidable enemy of many criminals.

Staff at the Florence and Douglas Complexes will train the new puppies for certification. Following a rigorous training program that could take one year, the dogs will be sent to other complexes to begin their work as ADC trailing hounds.

Sgt. Myers, who is a member of the canine program, considers both male and female hounds equal in their abilities for tracking. He said, "Their tracking skills are specific to each dog and are based more on their maturity level and mental and physical development."



# Inmates Learn to Write Creatively

By Tamara Swerline, Librarian II, ASPC-Safford

There is no doubt inmates have used their creativity in the past to disrupt prison operations. After all, some inmates have made a knife from a plastic tub, a rope with toothpaste and toilet paper and darts out of rolled paper and paper clips.

But recently, Arizona Department of Corrections inmates have used their creativity in a positive way.

With the help from Richard Shelton, a professor from the University of Arizona and a volunteer with the ADC for more than 25 years, and grant money from the Lannan Foundation of New Mexico, the Department is conducting creative writing workshops for inmates.

On every other Sunday afternoon, Professor Shelton comes to ASPC-Safford's Tonto Unit to facilitate the creative writing class. He teaches the class as if it were a college level course. The enrolled inmates are excited about the course and are improving their writing skills every day. (Right is an example of a poem written by an inmate.)

The course has been challenging for inmates. When the class first started, it was interesting and sometimes painful to watch the inmates discuss and critique original works. In the beginning, some

members left the class because they were unable to accept criticism, and were not motivated to produce work. Those who stuck with the course eventually became accomplished in their craft.

A number of inmates who began the workshop have had their work published in national poetry reviews. It is always exciting when an inmate participant comes into the library and presents a letter from a publisher telling them their work has been accepted for publication. Some of the work from ADC inmates appears in the *Walking Rain Review*, an annual periodical published by the Lannan Foundation containing inmate writings.

Since the creative writing workshop began, ASPC-Safford has received more than \$10,000 worth of library reading materials, most of which are of literature or poetry. These books have been placed into the regular loaning library with duplicates being sent to the Graham Unit library.

Writing materials and copy paper for the workshop are supplied to inmates for free; therefore the class is at no expense to the Department of Corrections.

## *Life: Sold Separately*

*I live in the pink world  
of a little girl's doll house.  
Controlled by her giant hands  
I sit where placed, beneath her bed  
the backseat of the family sedan  
the carpeted stairs that lead to her room.  
My plastic smile remains.  
I am without heart, hunger or need.  
I bring a momentary joy to children  
who want to play house  
and have tea parties with empty cups  
I wonder how the others made out  
Sunshine Susie, Playtime Patty  
left on the shelves of the toy store  
inside the wombs of a see-through  
box with a price tag of \$13.99.  
If I could, I would cry for them  
but it's not one of my features.  
I can only blink and wet myself.  
Such a cruel creator.*

## ADC Bloodhound Gives Back to the Community



Meg, the pet bloodhound at ASPC-Phoenix's Aspen Unit, was nominated for a community service award with Friends of Animal Control for being a therapeutic outlet for inmates. On October 25, Meg received her award at the Hyatt in Phoenix. Recently, a camera crew from Friends of Animal Control filmed Meg for a presentation at the award ceremony.

"The inmates at the Aspen Unit absolutely love Meg, they shower her with attention. She is a great outlet for them," said ASPC-Phoenix Warden Judy Frigo.

## ADC Employee Investigates Billy the Kid

Is the body buried in William H. Bonney's grave in Fort Sumner, New Mexico the real Billy the Kid? An ADC investigator and his team of criminologists want to know.

With the help of Dale Tunnell, an Arizona Department of Corrections investigator with the Inspections and Investigations Bureau, the Lincoln County, New Mexico Sheriff's Office has reopened a 122-year old cold case to verify the identity of Billy the Kid, otherwise known as William H. Bonney.

"This is the first time the death of William H. Bonney is being conducted as a criminal investigation. Our team of experts is trying to solve the mystery using forensic science, DNA and crime-scene techniques," said Tunnell. "By the end of this year, we should uncover the legend of Billy the Kid."

Tunnell, a former investigator with the federal government and a former member of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, was contacted several months ago by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office for his expertise in examining testimonies given on letters and depositions. Since the investigation began, Tunnell has compared many of the documents submitted by people throughout the years who claimed to have been a friend or an associate of Billy The Kid.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office initiated the investigation in April after a sheriff from Lincoln County visited a museum in Hico, Texas dedicated to "Brushy" Bill Roberts, a man who claimed in 1950 to be The Kid. The museum contends Sheriff Pat Garrett, the famous lawman of New Mexico who was credited with killing William H. Bonney, shot someone other than Billy the Kid and falsified the record.

"If Pat Garrett shot someone else and claimed it was The Kid that would make him a murderer. If it was a cover up, the sheriff's office will remove the patch that recognizes Garrett as a hero from their agency's uniform," said Tunnell.



A photo of Billy the Kid



Dale Tunnell has been contacted by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office in New Mexico to help uncover the legend Billy the Kid.



# A Passion for Classical Guitar

By Leonard B. Shearer, CEPS, ASPC-Lewis and Bonnie M. Austin



COIII Cris Martinez playing classical guitar at a cafe.

The only iron bars at this gig are the delicate scrolls on the bistro tables that crowd the art-filled room. As the light filters through a small window in the European inspired coffeehouse, it creates a natural spotlight for the small wooden stage where COIII Cris Martinez is hard at play.

The atmosphere is quite a switch from his day job. Currently serving as a CO III on the Stiner unit at ASPC Lewis, Martinez spent several years working at the San Pedro unit of ASPC Perryville. This six-year veteran of the Department has been a CO II, a Sergeant, a CO III and now a classical guitarist.

Though he has been playing regularly for only five and a half years, Martinez's interest in classical guitar goes back to his youth.

"As a kid, I was very impressed with the sound of the Spanish classical guitar. I never forgot that early impression. True classical guitar is a serious discipline that requires an extreme level of commitment. Recently I felt the desire to make a

serious commitment and play in that style," said Martinez.

A good guitar helped him make that transition from an interested hobbyist to a dedicated performer.

"A good instrument was essential, and after I finally purchased a quality classical guitar, things started coming together. My wife and friends noticed that the music and sound was very good and they gave me the encouragement to start performing in public," said Martinez.

"Classical guitar has its challenges, however. Hand and finger placements are critical because of the precision required when you're striking so many notes with different fingers. Again, there is no band to cover mistakes or errant notes.

Guitar picks are not used to play in this style. Fingernails are the guitar picks, and they must be the right length and filed smooth to avoid scratchy noises when played through an amplifier," said Martinez.

For Martinez, learning to play classical guitar is has been a daunting task.

"As a solo performer, it is hard. You have to remember that I don't play in a band where you only contribute part of the music while the rest of the band plays their intricate parts such as bass guitar, drums and keyboard. I try to cover the whole spectrum of music with one instrument. That can be challenging," said Martinez.

Martinez offers this advice for aspiring classical guitarists, "I would say go for it if you truly have a passion for the music and the guitar. The more you learn, the greater the sense of accomplishment. But, start with a decent quality instrument even if it is a used one. A poor quality guitar can be very uninspiring."

## Training Exercise to Test ADC Readiness

The Arizona Department of Corrections has placed a high priority on preparedness for emergency response to a major tragedy or terrorist attack and on using response procedures employed by other Arizona first responders.

As part of testing the Domestic Preparedness Plan, 85 Arizona Department of Corrections administrators gathered in Phoenix for "Operation Critical Decision," a tabletop exercise familiarizing ADC divisions with protocols for responding to incidents such as hazardous material spills, potential mass casualties and site evacuations. The six-hour exercise was conducted as a group training and discussion session and included simulated scenarios that required administrators to make tough decisions in difficult situations.

"The exercise provided the Department the opportunity to test our preparedness, and at the same time identify ways to improve response in the future," said ADC Homeland Security Coordinator Nolan Thompson.

An objective of the exercise was to educate employees about ADC's Incident Management System and Emergency Operations Center interface. The utility of Emergency Operations Centers became more apparent to the participants during the IMS/EOC Interface training. Participants discussed the importance of establishing EOCs in policy, defining EOC posts and assigning ADC staff and alternate staff to these posts. Thinking beyond the prison complex level to ADC as a whole and to the community, region, state and nation also must become part of ADC's domestic preparedness and emergency management process.

Thompson said that an After Action Report will be completed by Domestic Preparedness TQM members Hope Smith, Wade Woolsey and Linda Maschner, who will focus on the day's activities and participants' evaluations of the tabletop exercise. These evaluations are expected to reveal concrete recommendations that will strengthen ADC's domestic preparedness program.

## ASPC-Winslow Employee Overseas but not Forgotten

by Michele Reeves, Executive Staff Assistant, ASPC-Winslow and Pat Mongiat, Nurse Practitioner, ASPC-Winslow



Lee Gourde and COII Melissa Hamilton, wife of Sgt. Hamilton, proudly hold the T-shirt Sgt. Hamilton sent as a thank you gift.

An Arizona Department of Corrections employee has not forgot about her fellow co-worker serving America in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lee Gourde, Medical Records Librarian I at ASPC-Winslow, organized an effort among her work colleagues to collect hygiene and non-perishable items to send ASPC-Winslow Correctional Officer II William Hamilton. Hamilton, who has been deployed to the Middle East for several months, is a Sergeant in the United States Army National Guard Reserve.

Upon receipt of the gift package, CO II Hamilton showed his appreciation by calling the Winslow Complex to thank Ms. Gourde and sending her an Operation Iraqi Freedom t-shirt signed by members of his troop.

## New Name for Directions

The Arizona Department of Corrections is pleased to introduce an updated look to its official employee newsletter. This publication has not seen a change in design since 1997. In addition to changing the design of the newsletter, the newsletter staff has modified the content to offer more comprehensive coverage of ADC activities and issues, along with other news and information affecting the community. For this issue, your newsletter is named *ADC Post* to honor the men and women who work posts in our agency, those worked by Correctional Officers, and all hard-working employees in the Department. We welcome your feedback if you have other name change suggestions.

The newsletter is your publication, and the newsletter staff would like your input and feedback.

Please send your comments to:  
Virginia Strankman  
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1601 W. Jefferson  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Mail Code 441

We hope you find the newsletter informative. Please remember to consult the newsletter online at <http://www.adc.state.az.us/dirlist.htm>.

Look for future issues.